

39. A method in accordance with claim 34, comprising the step of pre-setting a base reference level for blood flow rate being the indicated flow level of the subject at rest before monitoring of the haemodynamic function, or being an average flow level for the particular type of subject prior to monitoring of haemodynamic function.

40. A method in accordance with claim 34, wherein the step of monitoring blood flow includes employing a device which produces a signal which varies with variations in blood flow, and processing the signal to produce an output providing an indication of variations in cardiac output.

41. A method in accordance with claim 40, wherein the step of processing the signal includes the step of modifying the signal by an adjustment factor obtained by a regression analysis of a human or animal subject.

42. A method in accordance with claim 40, wherein the step of processing the signal comprises modifying the signal by an adjustment factor obtained from a co-variate parameter.

43. A method in accordance with claim 42, wherein the co-variate parameter is heart rate.

44. A method in accordance with claim 34, comprising the step of applying the Doppler effect to monitor blood flow.

45. A method in accordance with claim 34, comprising employing an infrared blood flow sensor (e.g. pulse oximeter) to monitor blood flow.

46. A method in accordance with claim 34, comprising employing an electromagnetic flow meter to monitor blood flow.

47. A method in accordance with claim 34, comprising the step of employing a color chart to monitor blood flow, and comparing the color of a predetermined part of the subject's body with the color chart to provide an indication of cardiac output.

48. A method in accordance with claim 34, comprising the step of monitoring the color of a part of the subject's body in order to monitor blood flow.

49. A method in accordance with claim 39, wherein the signal is processed to produce a display which indicates the trend of the cardiac output.

50. A device for monitoring haemodynamic function in a human or animal subject, comprising a blood flow monitor arranged to monitor changes in blood flow in a peripheral vessel or tissue bed, to provide an indication of changes in cardiac output.

51. A device in accordance with claim 50, wherein the blood flow monitor is arranged to monitor relative changes in blood flow, to provide an indication of relative changes in cardiac output.

52. A device in accordance with claim 50, further comprising a processing means for processing a signal from the blood flow monitor to produce an output signal which provides an indication of changes in cardiac output.

53. A device in accordance with claim 52, wherein the processing means is arranged to adjust the signal by an adjustment factor obtained from regression analysis of a human or animal subject.

54. A device in accordance with claim 52, the processing means being arranged to adjust the signal by an adjustment factor obtained from a co-variate.

55. A device in accordance with claim 54, wherein the co-variate input is heart rate.

56. A device in accordance with claim 50, wherein the blood flow monitor comprises a Doppler sensor adapted to monitor blood flow changes.

57. A device in accordance with claim 50, wherein the blood flow monitor comprises an infrared sensor such as a pulse oximeter for monitoring blood flow.

58. A device in accordance with claim 50, wherein the blood flow monitor comprises an electromagnetic flow meter.

59. A device in accordance with claim 52 further comprising a display, wherein the processing means is arranged to control the display to give an indication of changes in the cardiac output in the subject.